

**In the claims:**

1. A method of conserving power in a WLAN receiver comprising the steps of:  
determining processing tasks that need only to be operated for a brief period of time during the reception of a received packet; and  
enabling said processing tasks only during said brief period of time of said received packet.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said enabling step includes providing multiple control signals for enabling and disabling said processing tasks controlled by a state machine that determines the state of the receiver.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing tasks include automatic gain control (AGC) and said AGC processing task is disabled after AGC settles for each packet.
4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said processing tasks includes radio control setting and said radio control setting processing task is disabled after the preamble of said packet.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing tasks include frequency offset correction and said frequency offset correction processing task is disabled after short sequence processing of each packet.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said processing tasks include automatic gain control, radio control setting and frequency offset processing and said automatic gain control, radio control setting and frequency offset processing are disabled after each has completed its processing task for each packet.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said processing tasks includes channel estimation and said channel estimation is disabled after the preamble of each packet.
8. A system for conserving power in a WLAN receiver comprising:
  - a plurality of modules for performing processing tasks that occupy only a brief period for the receiver for each packet;
  - a clock with multiple clock zones for the multiple tasks;
  - a state machine for determining the state of signal processing of a received packet;
  - said clock coupled to said modules and responsive to the state of the state machine for disabling said modules when processing is complete for each packet.
9. The system of claim 8 wherein said plurality of modules includes AGC modules that is gated off after AGC settles.
10. The system of claim 8 wherein said plurality of modules includes radio control setting and said radio control setting is gated off after the preamble.